

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended. Claims 1 - 4, 10 - 15, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments, all of which are supported in the application as originally filed. Claim 6 has been cancelled from the application without prejudice, and Claims 16 - 19 have been withdrawn. (Claim 20 was previously cancelled from the application without prejudice.) Claims 1 - 5, 7 - 15, and 21 are presented for consideration.

Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by the claims as presented prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, and claim amendments and cancellations in the present application are directed toward facilitating expeditious prosecution of the application and allowance of the currently-presented claims at an early date. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by the claims as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 21 herein to clarify that the recited transfer is a transfer of a group of animals, the group comprising at least two animals, which is not the same as a transfer of an individual animal.

Independent Claims 1 and 21 are also amended herein to clarify that the location of the transfer comprises at least one of a city and a state, which is not the same as the “pen” or “NORTH” concept which is discussed in para. [0130] of U. S. Patent Publication 2003/0177025

to Curkendall et al. (hereinafter, “Curkendall”). With regard to the “location” claim language, it should also be noted that “customer information such as address”, as discussed in para. [0238] of Curkendall, is not the same as a location at which animals are transferred. (A customer address may be a corporate address, for example, for a corporation that owns animals which are located at numerous ranches, feedlots, and so forth, and which may be transferred at such locations or at auction barns or other places – none of which are the corporate address.)

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 21, as currently presented, are not anticipated by Curkendall. Without more, independent Claims 1 and 21 are deemed patentable as currently presented. Dependent Claims 2 - 5 and 7 - 15 are therefore deemed patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of Claim 1 from which they depend.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the currently-presented claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as currently presented, and allowance of the currently-presented claims at an early date. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned Applicant’s Attorney if deemed useful to advancing the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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